

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 09871 281726Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-02 COME-00 ACDA-12
/074 W

-----127157 281734Z /45

O 281722Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5886
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11562: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: TERRORISTS KILL THREE POLICEMEN

REF: MADRID 9811

1. APPARENTLY COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACKS THIS MORNING
IN THREE SPANISH REGIONS -- CATALONIA, THE BASQUE PRO-
VINCES, AND GALICIA -- HAVE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF THREE
POLICEMEN.

-- AT ABOUT 1145 AN ARMED POLICEMAN WAS MURDERED IN DOWN-
TOWN BARCELONA BY THREE ASSAILANTS, WHO REPORTEDLY WERE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 09871 281726Z

THEN PURSUED INTO A CITY PARK AND APPREHENDED.

-- AT ABOUT 1130 TWO ATTACKERS SHOT TO DEATH A MEMBER OF
THE GUARDIA CIVIL IN THE TOWN OF MODRAGON (GUIPUZCOA).

-- AT ABOUT 1130 TWO YOUTHS GUNNED DOWN A MEMBER OF THE
GUARDIA CIVIL IN THE CITY MARKET OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

(PROVINCE OF LA CORUNA).

2. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN BRACED FOR A FURTHER ESCALATION OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE, EVER SINCE THE MURDER IN MADRID ON JULY 21 OF TWO SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS. BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SUCH AN OUTBURST OF TERRORIST ASSAULTS IN ONE DAY IS UNPRECEDENTED, AND IT MAY WELL INDICATE A COORDINATED OFFENSIVE ON THE PART OF MORE THAN ONE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. IN ANY EVENT, THE TERRORISTS' PURPOSE CLEARLY WAS TO BROADEN THE TERRORISM FRONT BY DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY COULD STRIKE AT WIDELY DISTANT PLACES AND TIMES OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING, THUS EXPANDING THE BATTLEFIELD FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY, MADRID AND BARCELONA TO ALL OF SPAIN. BY SO DOING, THEY OBVIOUSLY HOPE TO PROVOKE THE GOVT, THE POLICE, OR EVEN THE MILITARY INTO OVERREACTING.

3. AS HAS HAPPENED SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, WE ASSUME THESE MURDERS WILL RALLY ALL OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES AROUND THE GOVT, WHICH IN TURN WILL MEASURE ITS REPOSE TO THESE PROVOCATIONS CAREFULLY. INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA REPORTEDLY IS CUTTING HIS VACATION SHORT AND RETURNING TO MADRID, WHERE WE BELIEVE HE WILL MOVE TO DEAL WITH THESE LATEST DEPRADATIONS THROUGH ESTABLISHED LEGAL MECHANISMS, INCLUDING THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED ANTI-TERRORISM DECREE-LAW. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE POLICE APPARENTLY HAVE THE BARCELONA ASSAILANTS IN CUSTODY. SUCH AN APPREHENSION IS HIGHLY UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 09871 281726Z

USUAL IN THESE CASES, AND IT COULD PROVE TO BE THE KEY TO FURTHER ARRESTS. TODAY'S COLD-BLOODED ATTACKS ARE SURE TO HAVE LEFT THE GOVT, THE PUBLIC ORDER FORCES AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY WONDERING WHEN THE OTHER SHOE WILL DROP.
TODMAN

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NNN

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